

February 11, 2019

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
Chair  
House Committee on Energy & Commerce  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Energy & Commerce  
2322 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Anna Eshoo  
Chair  
House Committee on Energy & Commerce  
Subcommittee on Health  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michael Burgess  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Energy & Commerce  
Subcommittee on Health  
2322 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**Faith-Based, Religious, & Civil Rights Organizations  
Express Support for the Women's Health Protection Act**

Dear Representatives Pallone, Walden, Eshoo, and Burgess:

As national faith-based, religious, and civil rights organizations that share a commitment to religious freedom and the separation of religion and government, we write to express our strong and unequivocal support for HR 2975, the Women's Health Protection Act.

**We affirm our nation's founding principle of religious liberty, which is integrally bound to reproductive freedom.** Religious liberty includes the right to follow one's own faith or moral code in making critical, personal reproductive health decisions, without political interference. While we respect the right of every individual, including our lawmakers, to hold their own personal and religious beliefs, our country's Constitution demands that no one impose a single religious viewpoint on all through civil law or regulation. The Women's Health Protection Act is essential legislation that embodies these shared ideals.

**The Women's Health Protection Act is urgently needed.** State lawmakers introduced a staggering 304 abortion restrictions in the first three months of 2019 alone, escalating attacks that have produced over 450 laws constraining access to reproductive health care since 2011. This egregious trend has resulted in large swaths of the country losing access to safe, timely abortion care. The Women's Health Protection Act is an important bill that would enact protections on the federal level to safeguard access to high-quality care and to secure constitutional rights by protecting patients and providers from political or religious interference.

Rather than face onerous barriers due to their economic status, employment status, or zip code, this bill would ensure that each person can make a decision about abortion led by their own circumstances, faith, or moral beliefs. It would also protect the religious liberty of individual health care providers seeking to administer quality care to their patients and enable providers to deliver abortion services free from burdensome restrictions designed to impede access rather than improve patient health.

We believe in compassion, justice, and dignity for all, compelling us to speak out for social justice and the right of every person to access comprehensive, affordable, and equitable reproductive health care. We are committed to ensuring equity and justice for the most marginalized members of our society. Laws that limit the availability of abortion disrespect human dignity, erode constitutional rights, exact far-reaching health and economic consequences, and ignore the moral agency of physicians seeking to provide compassionate care. Furthermore, laws that eliminate options for some based on their geographic location are profoundly unjust, pushing care out of reach for those living in poverty and in rural areas, people of color, LGBTQ people, and young people. We cannot remain idle as state laws transform our country into a map of “haves and have-nots” with regard to access to reproductive health services.

Every day, we support equal, fair, and comprehensive access to health care and respect for personal decision-making. **We support the Women’s Health Protection Act as a means to this end and urge you and your colleagues to do the same.** It is the right thing to do.

Respectfully,

A Critical Mass: Women Celebrating Eucharist  
African American Ministers In Action (AAMIA)  
ALEPH: Alliance for Jewish Renewal  
Ameinu  
American Atheists  
American Humanist Association  
Anti-Defamation League  
Avodah  
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action  
Catholics for Choice  
CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers  
Central Conference of American Rabbis  
Chicago Women-Church  
Clergy Advocacy Board of Planned Parenthood Federation of America  
CORPUS  
Disciples Justice Action Network  
Episcopal Women's Caucus  
Freedom From Religion Foundation  
Global Justice Institute (MCC)  
Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.  
Human Rights Campaign  
Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action  
Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA)  
Jewish Women International  
Jews United for Justice  
Keshet  
Methodist Federation for Social Action  
Metropolitan Community Churches (MCC)

Muslim Advocates  
Muslims for Progressive Values  
National Center for Transgender Equality  
National Coalition of American Nuns (NCAN)  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Organization for Women  
Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies  
People For the American Way  
Rabbinical Assembly  
Reconstructing Judaism  
Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association  
Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice  
Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice of Connecticut, Inc.  
Religious Institute  
Society for Humanistic Judaism  
Tivnu: Building Justice  
T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights  
Union for Reform Judaism  
Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation  
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries  
Voices for Progress  
Women of Reform Judaism  
Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics, and Ritual (WATER)  
Women's League for Conservative Judaism  
Women's Ordination Conference